

**Decision Record for
Hand Pile Burning for Hazard Fuel Reduction
EA #OR-110-01-028**

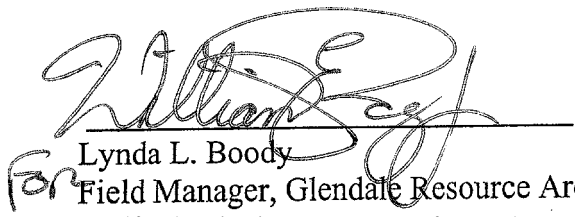
I. Decision: It is my decision to approve and implement Hand Pile Burning and Hazard Fuel Reduction as described in the environmental assessment #OR-110-01-028, dated June 29, 2001, Alternative 2 with its project design features. Units or portions of units that need hazard reduction will have the slash hand piled and the piles burned. Burning will begin in the fall/winter of 2001 and only be done during the fall/winter seasons after significant rainfall has occurred. Specific areas to be hand piled and burned are scattered throughout the Glendale Resource Area and depicted on maps in the environmental assessment. The roadside treatment areas will be broken up into 20 acre sections, labeled, and ignited as units. Material generated from brushing will be available for public fire wood cutting along these road systems prior to piling and burning. Surveys will be completed for bryophytes and lichens prior to burning.

Comments were requested from the public for 30 days through the Grants Pass Daily Courier (July 17, 2001) and Umpqua Free Press (July 19, 2001) newspapers. No comments were received from the public

II. Rationale: This action meets the purpose and need of the proposal to reduce the fire hazard of existing created fuels. Reduction in fuel load is expected to decrease wild land fire intensity, flame length and rate of spread if a wildfire occurs, and allow for improved response time. Project design features of the action adequately protect environmental resources and minimize risk of potential adverse effects. The No-Action Alternative was not selected as it did not meet the identified purpose and need for reducing fire and fuel hazards in the area.

This decision is consistent with the *Record of Decision for Amendments to Forest Service and Bureau of Land management Documents Within the Range of the Northern Spotted Owl (1994)* and *Record of Decision for the Medford District Bureau of Land Management (RMP)* dated April 14, 1995, the *Record of Decision for Amendments to the Survey and Manage, Protection Buffer, and other Mitigation Measures Standards and Guidelines (2001)* as well as the *Endangered Species Act*, *The Native American Religious Freedom Act* and cultural resource management laws and regulations. This action will not involve Riparian Areas and is consistent with the Aquatic Conservation Strategy described in the RMP.

The decision record will appear in the Grants Pass Daily Courier and Umpqua Free Press. The first date of publication of the legal notice will constitute the decision date for purposes of protests and appeals under 43 CFR 5003. Protests must be filed in writing with the authorized officer within 15 days of the publication of this decision.


for Lynda L. Boody
Field Manager, Glendale Resource Area
Medford District, Bureau of Land Management


8-14-01
Date

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT (FONSI)
for the
Hand Pile and Burning for Hazard Fuel Reduction
EA #OR-110-01-028

Based on the analysis presented in the Hand Pile Burning for Hazard Fuel Reduction environmental assessment (EA), #OR-110-01-028, I find that Alternative 2 with its project design features, will not have significant effect on the human environment. Effects will not be beyond those already fully described in the *Final Medford District Proposed Resource Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement*. For this reason, no supplemental environmental impact statement is required.

The following critical elements will not be adversely affected by this project and have been analyzed in the EA: air quality, areas of critical environmental concern, historical or cultural resources, Native American religious sites, prime or unique farmlands, floodplains, threatened or endangered species, known hazardous waste areas, water quality, wetlands, wild and scenic rivers and wilderness.

Public notice of availability of this EA will be provided through the Medford BLM internet site and newspapers in the area of the project. The Hand Pile Burning for Hazard Fuel Reduction EA can be obtained at the Medford District Office or on the Medford BLM internet site: <http://www.or.blm.gov/Medford/>.

for 
Lynda L. Boody
Field Manager, Glendale Resource Area
Medford District, Bureau of Land Management

8-14-01
Date